

God's people returned joyfully to their building. After this Nehemiah divided the builders into two parts, half of whom worked on the wall while the other half held the spears and the shields ready to protect them. Also, every builder, as he worked, had his sword beside him, and the laborers who helped them did their work with one hand, and with the other held their weapons ready, if need be, to fight. And Nehemiah set trumpeters to watch upon the wall, to sound an alarm to gather the people together, if at any point their enemies should come suddenly upon them. In this way the work went on, and by the blessing of God and the wise plans of Nehemiah, the wall was completed in about seven weeks.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer?
2. In what state did he find the walls of Jerusalem?
3. How did the people receive him when they knew his plans?
4. Who tried to prevent the work?
5. What did the enemy plan to do?
6. How did Nehemiah outwit them?
7. What did Nehemiah do besides setting a watch to defend the wall?
8. How did he protect the builders after the enemy withdrew?
9. How did he encourage the people?
10. When was the work finished?
11. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

One evening a man was trudging home with a particularly awkward parcel. The strings cut into his fingers, and to carry it in his arms was no easier.

As he was leaving a grocery store, after making some final purchases, the clerk said pityingly, "That is quite a load. Don't you want me to fix it?" And taking the large parcel he tied the smaller ones to it, passing a stout cord over all, and hooked into the now solid bundle a small wooden handle, and handed it back to his customer, who walked away a new man. So comfortable had his parcel become, that he soon forgot he was carrying anything.

And so in life, there is everything in the way you take hold of what you do have to. What is the handle for life and work? Nehemiah knew that it was prayer.

Lesson Hymn

Stand up for Jesus, Christian, stand!
Firm as a rock on ocean's strand!
Beat back the waves of sin that roll
Like raging floods around thy soul! Amen.

—Hymn 260, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—61. *How may we please the Holy Spirit?* We may please the Holy Spirit by doing what He puts into our hearts.

SHORTER CATECHISM—105. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?* A. In the fifth petition (which is, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*) we pray, That God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

The Question on Missions

46. What is meant by bazaar preaching? It means preaching in the market or street to people who cannot be got into the churches. Our missionaries do much of this work.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Sometimes men need to fight for their country. But oftener they need to work for it, as the masons in Nehemiah's time did,



with their trowels building the walls. And every lesson we learn thoroughly, and every bit of work we do well, helps to make our country great.

I Have Learned To-day

THAT I SHOULD FIGHT AGAINST SIN